



Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the base oil component comprises at least 55% by weight of alkylbenzene and at most 45% by weight of a polyol ester.
3. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the base oil component consists essentially of alkylbenzene and polyol ester.
4. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component is selected from the group consisting of mono-alkylbenzenes, di-alkylbenzenes, di-phenylalkanes and mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a molecular distribution in which at least 80% of the molecular weight fraction is greater than 200.
6. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a molecular distribution in which at least 70% of the molecular weight fraction is below 500.
7. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a kinematic viscosity of at least 10 cSt, but not more than 70 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 2 cSt, but not more than 10 cSt at 100°C.

8. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a pour point of less than -10°C .
9. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has an acid number of less than 0.04 mgKOH/g.
10. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the polyol ester component comprises at least one polyol ester that is a reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol and a monobasic carboxylic acid.
11. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the polyol ester component is at least one polyol ester that is a reaction product of one or more alcohols selected from neopentylglycol (NPG), trimethylolpropane (TMP) and pentaerythritol (PE) and dimers and trimers thereof and one or more acids selected from linear and/or branched C_5 to C_{18} acids.
12. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the polyol ester component has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt but not more than 40 cSt and a kinematic viscosity of at least 1.5 cSt but not more than 5 cSt at 100°C .
13. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the polyol ester component has a pour point of less than -40°C .
14. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the polyol ester component has an acid number of less than 0.04 mgKOH/g.
15. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 which has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt but not more than 40 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 2 cSt but not more than 6 cSt at 100°C .

16. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 25 which has a pour point of not more than -40°C.

17. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 25 which comprises one or more lubricant additives selected from antioxidants, anti-wear additives, extreme pressure agents, acid scavengers, foaming agents, anti-foaming agents, stabilisers, surfactants, viscosity index improvers, corrosion inhibitors, metal deactivators or passivators, lubricity improvers or oiliness agents and friction modifiers at levels between 0.0001 and 20 weight% based on the weight of the base oil component.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method of lubricating a rotary vane compressor comprising charging the compressor with a lubricant composition as defined in ~~claim 4~~ claim 25.

20. (Currently Amended) A rotary vane compressor charged with a lubricant composition as defined in ~~claim 4~~ claim 25.

21. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration system comprising a rotary vane compressor, said system being charged with a refrigerant comprising a chlorine-free, fluorine-containing heat transfer fluid and a lubricant composition as defined in ~~claim 4~~ claim 25.

22. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration system according to claim 21 in which the refrigerant is a hydrofluorocarbon.

23. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration system according to claim 22 in which the refrigerant is selected from the group comprising R-32, R-116, ~~R-125~~ R-125, ~~R-134a~~ R134a, R-143a and mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) In claim 19, the rotary vane compressor is a fixed-vane compressor.

25. (Previously Presented) A lubricant composition comprising alkyl benzene and at least 25% by weight polyol ester, wherein the alkyl benzene has a molecular distribution in which at least 50% of the molecular weight fraction is greater than 350.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the base oil component comprises at least between 60% and 75% by weight of alkyl benzene and between 40% and 25% by weight of polyol ester.

28. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a molecular distribution in which at least 50% of the molecular weight fraction is below 450.

29. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a kinematic viscosity of at least 25 cSt, but not more than 70 cSt at 40°C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 3.5 cSt, but not more than 10 cSt at 100°C.

30. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25 in which the alkylbenzene component has a pour point of less than -30°C.

31. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, wherein the alkyl benzene includes an alkyl component that is branched.

32. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 25, in which the polyol ester component comprises at least one polyol ester that is a reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol and one or more acids selected

from linear and/or branched C₅ to C₉ acids.

33. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 25, wherein the polyol ester has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt and no more than 25 cSt at 40 °C, and a kinematic viscosity of at least 1.5 cSt and no more than 4 cSt at 100 °C.

34. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 25, wherein the polyol ester component has a pour point of less than -55 °C.

35. (Currently Amended) The lubricant composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 25, wherein the composition has a kinematic viscosity of at least 5 cSt and no more than 25 cSt at 40 °C and a kinematic viscosity of at least 2 cSt and no more than 5 cSt at 100 °C.

36. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration system according to claim 21 in which the refrigerant is selected from the group comprising difluoromethane (R-32), trifluoromethane (R-23), 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134), 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a), 1,1,1-trifluoroethane (R-143a), 1,1-difluoroethane (R-152a), pentafluoroethane (R-125) and hexafluoroethane (R-116) and mixtures of two or more thereof.